



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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For more information, please contact:

Rod McWilliams (414) 278-4216 cell (414) 235-6592

AUDIT FINDS NO FAULT IN CONTRACT PROCESS

MILWAUKEE – A independent report released by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors' Department of Audit concludes that the awarding of a contract to Bell Therapy by Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division was absolutely proper. County Executive Walker requested the audit after an article in the Associated Press called into question the appropriateness of the contract.

"This conclusion comes as no surprise to me as I have consistently stressed the importance of strict ethical standards in my administration," said Walker. "This audit confirms that the safeguards that I instituted are working."

The review, authored by Jerome Heer, Director of Audits concludes that:

1. The December 2004 sole source Bell Therapy contract for an emergency care facility was properly awarded.
2. The RFP process used to award a contract to Bell Therapy for 2005 Community Support Program services was proper.
3. Campaign contributions from officers of Bell Therapy's parent company were made in a manner consistent with the Milwaukee County Ethics Code.

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